Harrison Co. ATC Marks Another Successful Year Serving Students During Spectacular Summer Camp

“These camp programs are the outstanding connection with future students, the community and careers. If we can build the connection with middle school students and parents, we will foster that connection throughout their high school career. This will allow us to teach these students about a variety of careers.

Students connect with these activities and because we are doing the camp for this age level, parents also connect. I get positive feedback from the community because we are doing so many career awareness activities with kids. They are excited that we manage the school effectively.”

John Hodge, Principal
Harrison Co. ATC

Several years ago, Harrison Co. ATC Principal John Hodge was on target when he decided to hold a career camp during summer break. He knew it would open up the school for an out of the ordinary summer camp filled with fun, excitement and a way to promote the types of programs offered by the ATC. He also knew this would provide his faculty and staff with an opportunity to engage younger students in hands-on activities while learning about technical education skills and careers. He was right on all counts.

During the summer of 2005, his ATC was one of 14 in the KY Tech system of schools to be funded *with money provided by the federal government through the America's Career Resource Network (ACRN).*

"The whole purpose of this endeavor is to give these young people a glimpse into career programs and occupations that may interest them in the future," says Karla Tipton, administrator for the state's ACRN funds. "The money we provide for the career camps is an effort to lead students down a path from high school to college and/or work."

"Our career camp programs would not be possible without ACRN funding and the enthusiastic efforts of Karla Tipton," says Hodge. "The camps have allowed us to build a quality connection with our middle school students and their parents. This provides all of our campers and their parents with an opportunity to make informed decisions about their high school career choices and future. The positive feedback we get from the community with regard to career awareness energizes us to continue our camp efforts each year."

The following pages reflect the wonderful activities provided for students during the camp.

Freshwater Stream Sampling: A Water Quality Project
Instructor Mark Sims

"I wanted to do something environmental with the kids. They love to be outside and the river is one of the most important resources in our community. Much of the material I used came from the Isaac Walton League of America (IWLA). We used the identification key from IWLA website for identifying the insects," says Sims.

"The insects we examined act as a thermometer for water quality. If the bugs are gone, the water is polluted. Considering we get our drinking water from this river, I would say these bugs are pretty important. The good news is that our junior biologists found a very diverse mixture of macroinvertebrates. Based on the insects we found, the Licking River around the Lair section ranks as excellent in quality. One group found 15 different types of insects in nine square feet of river bottom, including several species that are very intolerant to pollution."

Collecting specimens from the South Fork of the Licking River

Says Sims, “I wanted the campers to get a chance to see how a love of outdoors and science can be combined into a pretty exciting and socially responsible career. Some of the careers we discussed included wildlife biologist, water treatment facility operators, environmental consultant, water quality technician, conservation officer, game warden and marine biologist.”

John Hodge, Mark Sims and Emmett Hobbs, Jr., a Nicholas Co. High School junior look at some of the specimens collected during the morning session at the Licking River Basin.

"I know I never had a chance to do anything like this," says Hobbs. "It's great."

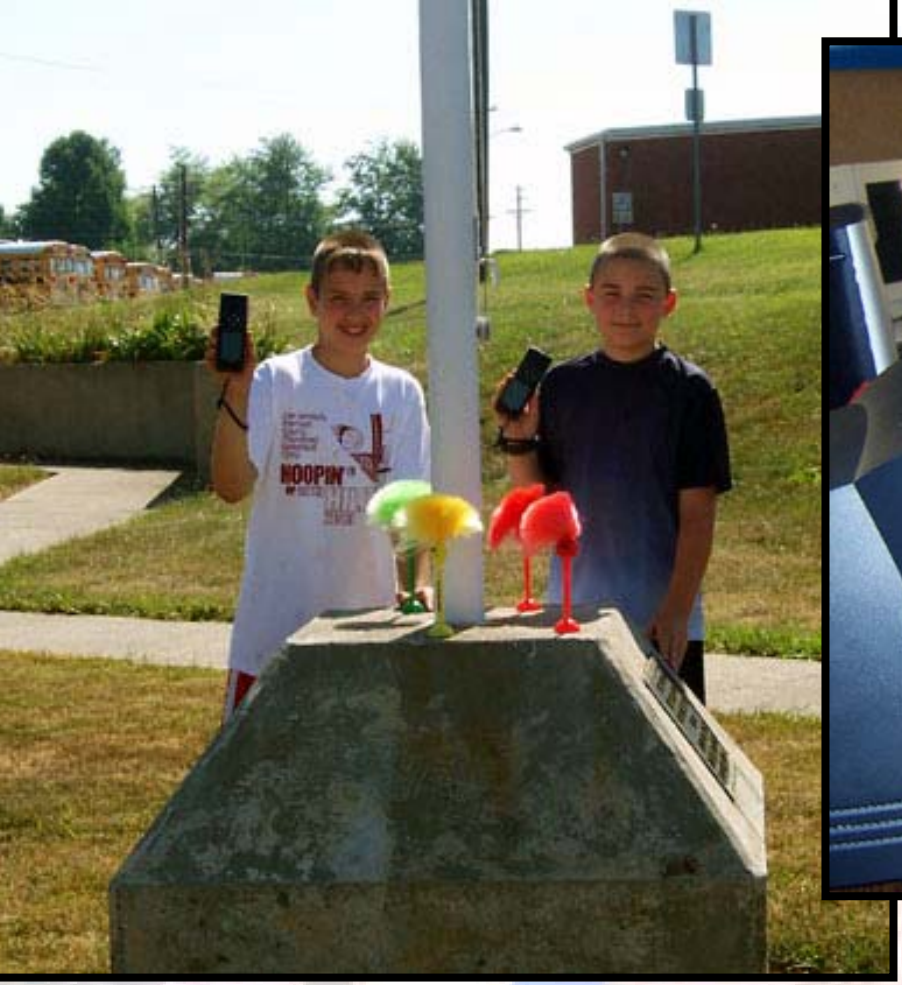
Information Technology – GPS Scavenger Hunt

Left to right: Matt Minix, Michael Miles and Judy Burns

Information Technology Systems Instructor Judy Burns made working with the Global Positioning Systems (GPS) a blast by having students find nine separate points during a scavenger hunt using the hand held units.

Says Miles, "I had heard of GPS and used it at 4H camp – but I really learned how to use it here. Mrs. Burns is awesome and she explains everything."

"Mrs Burns is nice," says Minix. "And, she knows her stuff."



Both Michael and Matt were able to follow all nine coordinates and find the prize at the end of the scavenger hunt. The activity was also conducted by having students put in separate coordinates and finding those locations.

Mrs. Burns is shown here instructing students on how to correctly download a program, burn a CD, design a CD cover and use the associated equipment. Part of the activity included a discussion regarding the appropriate rules when downloading from the Internet.

Mr. Hobbs helps Whitney Gaunce get ready to launch her rocket as Logan Duncan watches the process.

Industrial Maintenance
Instructor: Mark Hobbs
Activity: Water Rockets

Using ordinary plastic soft drink bottles, Mr. Hobbs instructed his career campers on how to build a high-flying rocket. The activity was a major hit with all campers and provided each with an opportunity to construct their own individual rocket. The project was also tied in with an algebra lesson – "tracking trajectories."

Scoring included construction of the rocket, launching the rocket and finding the angle of inclination, calculating the maximum height of the rocket, and using the vertex formula to find an equation that models the path of the rocket.

All in all – a very exciting day.

Once the rockets were created, the students were taken to the school's parking lot where launching took place. As part of the activity, there were two high school students standing 250' feet from the launch pad. Using a Model Rocket Altitude Finder, they were able to determine the angle of inclination. When the rocket reached it highest point, the student squeezed the trigger to set the degrees. Then students were able to calculate the altitude.

"I really like this – it's been fun.," says Logan Duncan, a Harrison Co. Middle School student. "I've learned how to weld, make horses, make model cars and make and launch rockets."

"I've learned how to build a rocket," says Witney Gaunce, Harrison Co. Middle School student. "We used a ping pong ball at the top of the rocket and it serves as the parachute when the rocket falls. Mr. Hobbs is really a talented teacher."

“I think winning the rocket contest was awesome. I liked building the rocket, but I loved shooting it off,” says Chandler. “I learned that water and air can work together to shoot the rocket.”

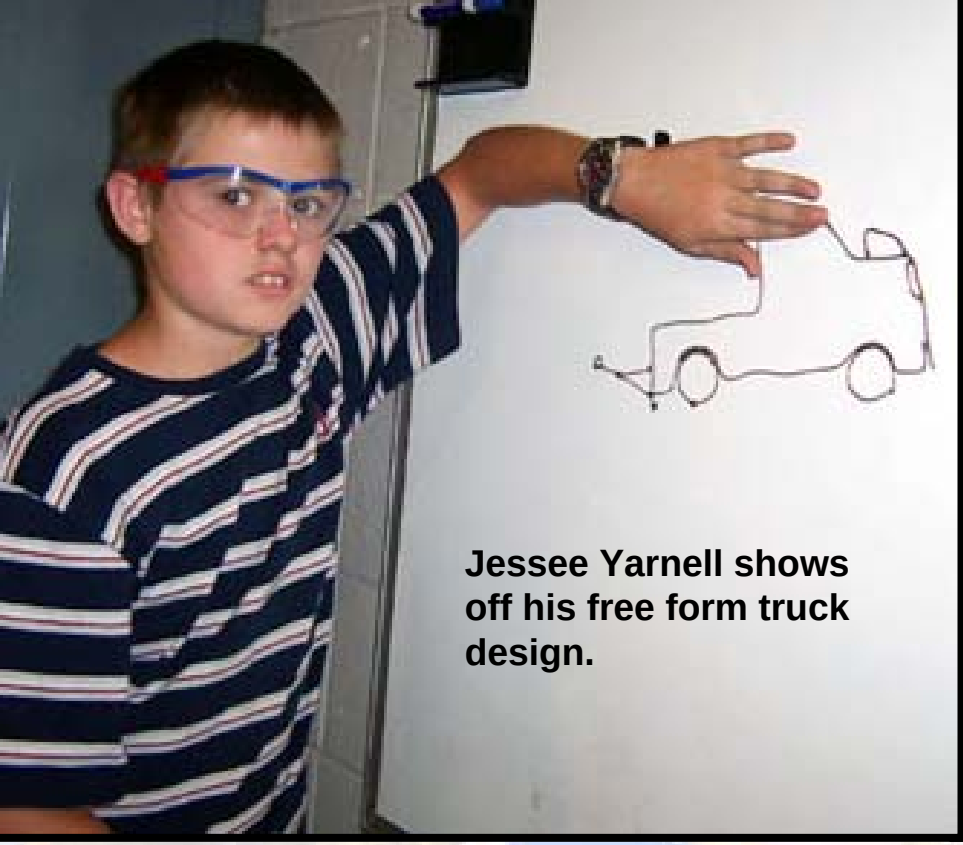
“I teach industrial maintenance, which includes fluid power, hydraulics, pneumatics, drive systems, electrical motor control, and basic blue print,” says Hobbs. “You can see the math side of the project and everyone builds their rocket from a kit. So, it’s a lot like manufacturing. Everyone has a chance to succeed because they all use the same materials. We were able to get a lot of high flyers and this gave my students a chance to succeed. It was a great activity and one the kids will remember. We tied into everything and made it fun.”

Rockets were set up in the main hall and judged for best design. Austin Lail was declared winner.

1st place rocket launching winner – Chandler Adams

Junior welders showing off their creations (from l to r): Patrick Ford, Andrew Hill, Jessee Yarnell, Chad Armstrong and Chandler Adams. All students were from the Harrison Co. Middle School.

Welding Activities: free form design and copper flowers
Instructor: Mr. Ed Taylor, Bluegrass Community and Technical College Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning instructor



Jessee Yarnell shows off his free form truck design.

“This career camp is great fun for the kids and gives them something worthwhile to do,” says Taylor. “They learn about the different technologies and this in turn exposes them to the different technology in the various career clusters.”

“This camp has been fun. I have learned how to weld, make cars, water rockets and a saw horse,” says Patrick Ford. “I liked welding the best because we made flowers and I’m going to give mine to my mom.”

“I loved the bottle rockets because my went the highest in my group,” says Andrew Hill. “I learned how to build a rocket using home made materials.”

“I’m making a dragster for my free form design,” says Armstrong. “I liked welding the flower and dragster because it’s fun and I can do it.”

Electrical Technology
Instructor: Mike Workman

Activities: making 6' extension cord
switch & light hook-up
"Edison" – a computer program

Determined students making extension cords

"I think this camp gives the students an opportunity to see all the various types of career programs we offer at this school. We also discuss other career options that might be of interest to them," says Workman. "It gives them an opportunity to learn about the careers they can do to make a living using their hands and head. They can use this knowledge to go on to a technical college."

"This has been fun for us too. These kids have come in here excited. It's great!"
Mike Workman

Harrison Co. Middle School Student Luke Williams (in photo at left) thoroughly enjoyed the week and "couldn't wait to get here every day."

Parent Comment

"This camp gives them an opportunity to learn about vocational technical skills. This benefits my child because his career plans include automotive, welding and electricity.

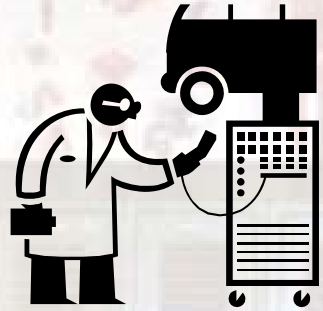
And, it's the best camp he has ever attended. He jumped up in the morning to come here each day. He truly loved every minute of the camp. We hope this is held every year."

Donna Williams, mother of Luke Williams

“I liked this class because it gives you experience,” say Harrison Co. Middle School Student Elizabeth Stanfield (at right). “If you want to be a worker in electricity, it’s good to be in this class. It’s fun.”

“I liked making an extension cord for my dad,” says Nathan Gregory (photo at bottom). “This was my favorite class because Mr. Workman is the best.”

Automotive Technology
Instructor: Ben Davis
Activities: Building a mouse trap car
Learning the correct use of screwdrivers and hammers
Understanding safety in the classroom
Mini classes – terminology (parallel, radius and flush)
applications for the academic class



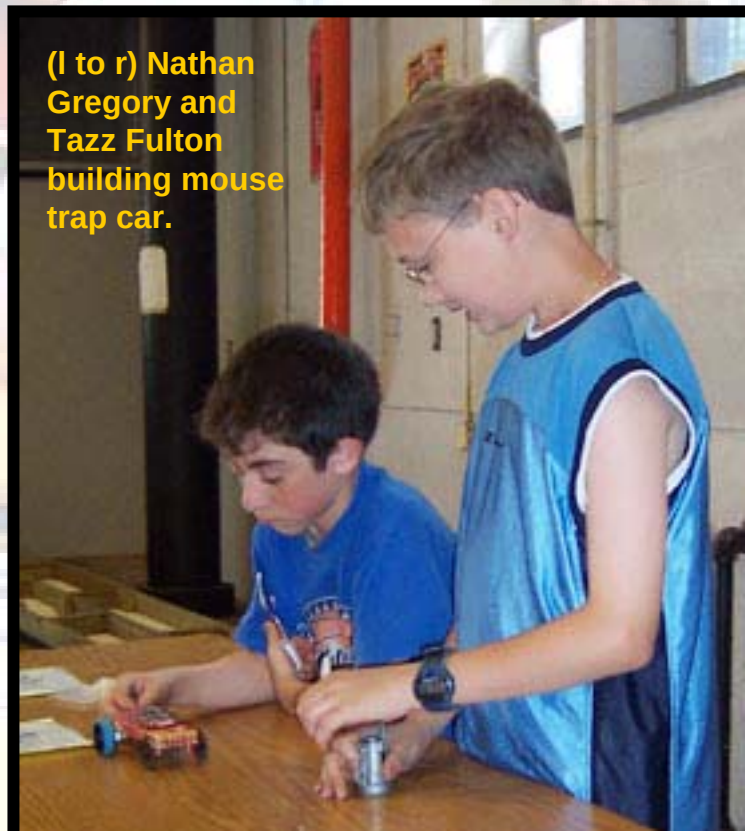
"My approach to this camp was to look at how we actually do what we read," says Davis. "We also discussed energy using science applications in component lessons."

Building A Mouse Trap Car

"I liked making the mouse trap car and my favorite part about making it was when we screwed in the eye screws using the axle as a lever," says Harrison Co. Middle School Student Luke Williams.

"One of the issues we had to address was whether the car set straight on the eye screws before we attached the wheels," says Davis. "We had to get it adjusted correctly and I'm proud of how the students worked through the process."

"I'm going to remember Mr. Davis because he was a nice teacher and I learned a lot," says Middle School Student Tazz Fulton. "When I get to high school, I want to take automotive."



(l to r) Nathan Gregory and Tazz Fulton building mouse trap car.

“The boys were stumped. Girls Rule!” says Shelby. “I loved making the care and winding it up. “

“I found the girls in my classes were very competitive,” says Mr. Davis. “I find females to be very good students.”

Parent Comment

“This is one of the best camps that I have ever seen. The kids can learn all types of skills and have fun. We have had a welding machine at home for years. My daughter made a flower and her daddy can now talk about the welding machine at home and the different types of welds she learned.

As far as winning the mouse trap car race - a little girl went out and competed against all the boys. It was awesome.

I think this camp needs more publicity. More parents should know about this because it’s fun and educational. The skills the kids learn are great!”

Joey Gibson, mother of Shelby Gibson

Shelby Gibson – Mouse Trap Car Winner shown here with Mr. Davis.

Photo at right: Dylan Hatfield, a Harrison Co. Middle School student is using a ball peen hammer. The peen end is for shaping up metal.

"When you use a ball peen hammer, keep your elbow up and only use your wrist to shape the metal," says Dylan.

"Screws are different sizes and it's important to match the screw driver to the screw," says Luke Williams. "If you use a #1 on a #2 screw, you will strip the screw or tear up the screw driver."

"We discussed the price of gasoline and energy. This tied into a discussion of what type of an effect this would have in the course of their lifetime," says Davis. "We also discussed, 'What do you want to be?' I tried to get a feel for where they wanted to go in life and at the same time talked about the careers we offer at the area technology center."

Carpentry

Instructor: Gary Lail

Harrison Co. HS Student Helpers: Jared Kearns, Matthew Brown and Phillip Nickell (shown in bottom right photo from left to right)

Activity: Building and decorating a saw horse

29 decorative saw horses were created during the career camp

"Being here this week is a way to give back to your community," says Jared Kearns.

"I liked helping younger kids learn about carpentry," says Matthew Brown.

"I'm here because I wanted to help Mr. Lail," says Phillip Nickell.

"We have made a total of 29 saw horses this week. I love these kids and it's important to hold these types of camps to teach them about a variety of careers – so much is available and what we are able to show them provides them with something to think about for their future," says Carpentry Instructor Gary Lail. "Getting kids in our building also gets their parents here to learn a little more about technical education and all the careers we offer. From what I have heard, the parents are just as excited about this camp as are the kids."

3rd Place Winner – Cathy Short with her horse "Stary"

2nd Place Winner – Laken Ruffett with her horse, "Blue Streak"

"I enjoyed cutting the word. I also learned how to put in a screw correctly so it wouldn't be crooked," says Cathy. "If you don't put a screw in right, the project could be crooked,"

"I've enjoyed making and painting this horse. I learned a lot. I learned how to cut wood better and make a saw horse," says Laken. "I'm going to let my dad use my saw horse."

And the winner is…
"Full Moon" created by Mia Lail.

"I loved making my horse. It was fun and I really like painting him," says Mia.

Mia Lail shown with "Full Moon" and Savannah Lell, a summer helper.

Parent Comment

"Both of my girls absolutely loved this camp. They had a good time and they learned. This is wonderful because they learn skills they can use for the rest of their lives."
Sabrina Reffett, mother of Laken and Christina Reffett